

Examiner consider the new Abstract and substitute it for the Abstract originally filed in the application.

Claims 1 and 2 have been canceled so as to eliminate the use of square brackets, "[", "]", in non-amended claims; and without prejudice to the presentation of one or more claims directed to the subject matter thereof.

It should be noted that:

- (1) New claim 15 corresponds to original claim 1;
- (2) New claims 16-23 correspond to original claims 3-10 in so far as they were dependent on original claim 1;
- (3) New claim 24 corresponds to original claim 2;
- (4) New claims 25-32 correspond to original claims 3-10 in so far as they were dependent on original claim 2;
- (5) New claim 33 corresponds to original claim 11/1;
- (6) New claims 34-36 correspond to original claims 12-14 in so far as they were dependent on original claim 11/1;
- (7) New claim 37 corresponds to original claim 11/2;
- (8) New claims 38-40 correspond to original claims 12-14 in so far as they were dependent on original claim 11/2.

The new claims 41 and 42 are independent claims and are directed to specific embodiments of the present invention.

As such, no new matter is deemed to have been presented by this amendment.

The new claims 16 to 42 correspond to the claims 16 to 42, as amended, that are now pending in applicants' parent

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application Serial No. 09/202,950, filed December 23, 1998.


In order to complete the record applicants wish to bring to the Examiner's attention the Information Disclosure Statement dated December 21, 1998 in parent application Serial No. 09/202,950. A copy of the Information Disclosure Statement is Enclosure 1.

Copies of the references cited in the Information Disclosure Statement are believed to be available to the Examiner.

An early and favorable action on this application is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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